

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Bernie Erickson, Rosemary Desisles, Carl Soderburg, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, John Walschinski, Joe Witkowski, Ed Koslowski
EXCUSED: Sherry Steenbock

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1427

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DELORES PIERCE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of March 19, 2013.

The following modifications were made to the minutes:

- In Number 7, DVA should be VBA;
- In Number 8, under Donald Bettine's report, the Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at 5:00 p.m.;
- In Number 9, the word *Mountain* should replace *Mounting*.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DUANE PIERCE, SECONDED BY ROSEMARY DESISLES TO APPROVE AS MODIFIED. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Brown County Fair – 2013 Veterans Appreciation Day Discussion.

Ed Koslowski of the Meet and Greet Committee indicated that he has received notice that there will be some military vehicles available for display and there was a request that the vehicles be roped off. Koslowski did not think would be a problem and he will speak with Steve Corrigan about this. Erickson stated that his assumption was that the veterans' tent would be on the far west end on the grass near the road. This will be a good location as it is away from the fair noise and will provide a much shorter distance for elderly people to get to the area and there is plenty of room for the military vehicles. Erickson suggested that the area be roped off early in the morning to prevent people from parking where they should not before the event.

Koslowski also stated that he has sent the Vietnam Vets an e-mail but has not heard back from them yet about the 50th Anniversary that was discussed at last month's meeting and them doing the honor guard. Koslowski is thinking it would work out if they post the colors and then do a memorial service with taps and a rifle squad followed by Rolling Thunder's table ceremony. Koslowski also stated that he will have his first meeting with the veterans groups who plan to participate in the fair on April 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the VFW in Howard and these meetings will continue on the third Thursday of each month through July. Koslowski concluded by stating that he will be sending out the first letter to all groups in late April or early May.

Carl Soderburg asked what the procedure to obtain tickets to this event was and Erickson explained where and how tickets can be obtained. It was also noted that the VA Clinic should be opening prior to the fair and perhaps tickets should be made available there as well.

6. Discussion re: Commemorative Partner Program for 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War with possible action.

Erickson stated that the Neville Public Museum will be putting together an exhibit in commemoration of the Vietnam War and this will be a free exhibit for veterans and their families. Erickson asked that if anyone has any items they could loan to the museum for the exhibit they could contact Rolf Johnson at the museum at 448-7843.

7. Discussion re: Identification of Veterans on Drivers Licenses.

Erickson provided changes that have been proposed to this resolution, a copy of which is attached. Line 10 of the resolution will have the language "or a County Veteran's Service Officer" added following the word *affairs*. In addition, Sections 4, 5 and 6 will be deleted from the resolution.

Erickson indicated that this resolution came from a committee last week and it is currently moving its way up the ladder to be passed. If this Subcommittee agrees to the changes, the process would be that this be passed by this Subcommittee and then move on to the Human Services Committee and then on to the full County Board. Upon approval by the full County Board, this will then be sent to Madison.

MOTION MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO APPROVE AS AMENDED BY THE STATE AND MOVE ON TO HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.

Jerry Polus was not in attendance and therefore there was no report.

9. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinski & Witkowski)

-Bernie Erickson had nothing to report.

-Rosemary Desisles reported on the *Above and Beyond Exhibit* at the National Veterans Art Museum in Chicago. This exhibit consists of an immense 10 X 40 foot sculpture comprised of imprinted dog tags, one for each of the more than 58,000 service men and women who died in the Vietnam War. This is the first new permanent Vietnam War Memorial other than the Wall in Washington DC to list all of those killed in action.

Desisles also reported that the CEO of Marinette Marine will be speaking at the upcoming Navy League Leadership Conference which will be held on April 20 in Wisconsin Dells. She will share more information on this conference at the next meeting. Desisles also passed around an updated newsletter she had received from the Community Blueprint Team. She noted that the Community Blueprint meetings are open to everyone and are held at FVTC on the third Tuesday of each month. Desisles also stated that the Wisconsin Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee will be holding a meeting on June 6 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm in Waukesha. Information on this meeting is attached.

-Jim Haskins reported that he had contacted WLUK TV to make them aware of the Veterans Appreciation Day at the Fair. He will continue to be in touch with the media to try to ensure coverage at the event. Haskins also read an article that had appeared in the *Green Bay Press Gazette* on March 29, 2013 regarding Vietnam Veterans Day; a copy of said article is attached. Haskins also provided some additional facts with regard to Vietnam Veterans Day and read an article he had written regarding Veterans Day and in particular, the Veterans Day Off with Pay bill.

Haskins also reported that Major League Baseball is donating \$8 million dollars to welcome home veterans and to fight PTSD and other brain disorders. As a footnote to this, Duane Pierce stated

that some of the Rolling Thunder Chapters around the country have starting putting POW chairs at various sports stadiums.

Haskins concluded his report by mentioning the Tribute For Heroes program in which veterans who have served or who are still serving can be nominated for recognition at the 2013 Major League All Star. Thirty nominees, one for each team, will be awarded this recognition. More information can be found at www.tributeforheroes.com.

-Duane Pierce reported that the Legion Post will be holding a brat fry on Friday, April 19 at Festival Foods East. Pierce also stated that the Post on North Irwin will be holding their semi-annual booyah sale on Saturday, April 20 beginning at noon but he urged people to come close to the beginning time as the booyah sells out quickly.

-John Walschinski reported on the Northeastern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial being constructed in Howard from his design. This project is currently in the fundraising phase and it is estimated that the cost of the memorial will be \$1.1 million dollars. He passed around a picture of what the memorial will look like and was proud that his design was chosen from over 200 others for the memorial.

-Joe Witkowski referenced an article regarding Schneider and HC Miller Company being recognized for being veteran friendly. He also stated that he belongs to the 20 year military club and they have an MIA chair at their meetings and he felt that it would be a good idea to do that with this Subcommittee as well. The rest of the Committee thought this was an excellent idea and Duane Pierce stated that he will get the chair cover. Witkowski concluded by thanking the Subcommittee for their friendship.

10. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.

None.

11. Adjourn.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO ADJOURN AT 5:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary